

REMARKS

Claims 1-2 remain pending in this application. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitation recited in Claim 3, which is canceled, without prejudice. No new matter has been introduced as a result of the amendment.

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over *Winell* (US Patent 6,625,145) in view of *Wang* (US Patent 6,614,774), further in view of *Watanuki et al.* (US Patent 6,172,986). Claim 3 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

In light of the above amendment, the limitations of Claim 3 were rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of Claim 1. Accordingly, the Applicants submit that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103 is moot and should be withdrawn. An early Notice of Allowance is earnestly requested.

A petition for a 1 month extension, along with a check in the amount of \$110 is enclosed. If any further fees are due in connection with this application as a whole, the Examiner is authorized to deduct such fees from deposit account no. 02-1818. If such a deduction is made, please indicate the attorney docket number (0113184-0004) on the account statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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